

Is a biannual newsletter published by the Office of Beautification Programs of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. It is mailed to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and other interested groups to keep them informed about litter control and prevention activities.

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2008

Dates to Remember

Labor Day

Sept. 1

Fall Litter Sweep

Sept. 20 - Oct. 4

N.C. State Fair

Oct. 16 -26

Veterans Day

Nov. 11

Thanksgiving

Nov. 27

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**Special 20 Year AAH Group Insert included with this issue.*

We want to keep you informed.

Please notify us if there is a:

- Contact person change
- Mailing address change
- Telephone number change

E-mail newsletter suggestions to:
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ADOPT
A
HIGHWAY

Newsletter

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ADOPT
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HIGHWAY

Newsletter

Litterature

Biannual Newsletter

Summer 2008



Featured Group

Kunst-Moore Family

Sixteen years ago, with a strong desire for a cleaner community, Richard Kunst, Ph.D., decided to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway Program and adopted a two-mile stretch of Kepley Road (State Road 1108) and Kennebec Drive (S.R. 2236) off of Farrington Mill Road (S.R.1109) southeast of Chapel Hill.



Dr. Richard Kunst of the Kunst-Moore Family Adopt-A-Highway group.

The original AAH contract dates back to March 1992 and Dr. Kunst is still actively involved in roadside litter cleanups. The Kunst family resides in the southwest corner of Durham County.

Interestingly, Dr. Kunst is the only member in his group and picks up the entire adopted roadside by himself. Dr. Kunst has the roadway broken into five sections, and on a quarterly basis works to clean up a section per day. It takes several days to complete the cleanup depending upon the amount of roadside litter. When asked about the most unusual item found, he said it was a complete garage door opener with its track.

In an unusual twist, the bags of litter are not stacked along the roadside for NCDOT to pick

up. Instead, Dr. Kunst takes the bags home for sorting. He has a passion for recycling and recycles everything including bottles, cans, paper, metal, tires and plastic. The sorting process takes another hour or two to complete. When finished, he takes the sorted items to the local recycling center or to the county dump site where he places the items in bins for future recycling.

Even clothing improperly discarded along the roadside is reused. When the clothing appears to be reusable, it is washed and repaired as needed. The items now become the wardrobe for gardening, painting or volunteering for Litter Sweep.

In addition, Dr. Kunst and his wife, Bibby, are the recycling coordinators in their community. Every two weeks for the past

15 years, they remind their neighbors when it is time to put items out for collection by the county.

Dr. Kunst holds a doctorate in Chinese language and literature. Prior to his retirement, he taught Chinese at Duke University and was involved in computer research humanities. During his tenure at Duke, he accompanied student groups on visits to China.

In his spare time, Dr. Kunst enjoys sailing along the coast and on Jordan Lake. He is also involved in the production of biodiesel fuel through the Piedmont Biofuels Cooperative in Pittsboro.

We offer our sincere thank you to the Kunst-Moore Family AAH group and Dr. Kunst for his diligence as an environmental steward.

Safety Tip: Participants are reminded to warm up by stretching before picking up litter and to drink plenty of water during the cleanup.



20 YEAR AAH GROUPS

The N.C. Department of Transportation established the Adopt-A-Highway program in 1988 in response to growing public concern regarding litter along the state's highways. During the past twenty years, AAH groups have removed more than 5.6 million bags of roadside litter.

Since its inception, thousands of AAH volunteers across the state joined to keep North Carolina roadsides clean and green. This was and is accomplished by removing and recycling litter from roadsides and educating the public about the importance of proper trash disposal. Today there are some 6,000 AAH groups that have adopted about 12,000 miles of roadway throughout the state.

AHH program goals include decreasing the amount of litter on North Carolina's roadsides and improving the beauty and quality of the environment. Each year, AAH volunteers pick up millions of pounds of litter. The program and its volunteers save taxpayers millions of dollars annually in roadside cleanup costs.

The AAH program is a fine example of state government working with citizens to improve the cleanliness and quality of life in communities across North Carolina.

Thank you all for your stewardship.

The groups listed on the following page are recognized for their 20 years of dedication. Each group listed is receiving two 20-year stars to be placed on their Adopt-A-Highway signs.

ASHE – 04
Peak Creek Ruritan Club
Ashe County High JR ROTC

AVERY – 05
Employees of Grandfather Mountain, Inc.

BEAUFORT - 06
Pamlico Plantation POA

BUNCOMBE – 10
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co., Asheville

CALDWELL – 13
Loyal Order of Moose-Lenoir #385

CARTERET – 15
Emerald Isle Realty, Inc.

CATAWBA – 17
United Beverages of NC, LLC – Hickory
Christian Tours
Horticulture Tech Program CVCC
Garbage Disposal Service, Inc.
Kiwanis Club of West Catawba County
Catawba County
Newton Kiwanis

CLAY – 21
Jarrett Road Community

CLEVELAND – 22
Polkville Baptist Young Men R.A.'s
Gamma Beta Phi Society

DAVIDSON – 29
Farmington Ruritan Club
Robertson's

DURHAM – 31
Hill Chesson & Associates
Douglas Milton Holmes Attorney
Garden View Realty, Inc.

FORSYTH – 33
Vienna Civic Club
Winston-Salem Jaycees
Foothills Sierra Club

GASTON – 35
Boy Scout Troop 503
Bessemer City American Legion Post 243
Town of Cramerton
Gamma Beta Phi Gaston College
Hulcey David Painting
Standard Distributors, Inc.

GRANVILLE – 38
The Oxford Rotary Club

GUILFORD – 40
High Point Civitans

HAYWOOD – 43
North Hominy Community

HENDERSON – 44
Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community
Triangle Stop Food Stores
Hendersonville Moose Lodge 711

HERTFORD – 45
Roanoke-Chowan Wildlife Club

HOKE – 46
Team Mates of Unilever HPC USA

IREDELL – 48
Scotts Ruritan Club

JACKSON – 49
Baptist Student Union WCU

JOHNSTON – 50
Central Johnston County Rotary Club

LENOIR – 53
Mr. Jesse M. Croom

MACON – 55
Cowee Community Development Club
Kiwanis Club of Franklin

MONTGOMERY – 61
Camp E-Ku-Sumee

MOORE – 62
Southern Pines Elks Lodge 1692
Pinehurst Area Realty
Sandhills Knights of Columbus
Pinecrest Key Club, Sandhill Kiwanis

NASH – 63
West Mount Ruritan Club

NEW HANOVER – 64
Cape Fear Cyclists
Bob King Auto Mall

ONSLOW – 66
Wagoner Insurance & Realty
Jacksonville Moose Lodge 1438

PAMLICO – 68
Kennel's Beach Improvement

PITT – 73
Greenville Jaycees
Cypress Group of the Sierra Club

PENDER – 70
Pender High JROTC Department

RANDOLPH – 75
Asheboro Jaycees

RICHMOND – 76
Derby Community

ROCKINGHAM – 78
Happy Home 4-H Club

ROWAN – 79
South Rowan FFA
China Grove Community Appearance
Scout Troop 379 Granite Quarry

RUTHERFORD – 80
Washburn Community Club

STOKES – 84
Bob and Sandy Laughter
Helsabeck-Hall Insurance Agency, Inc.

WAKE – 91
First United Presbyterian Church
Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh
South Raleigh Civitan Club
Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.
Wendell Lions Club
Farmhouse Fraternity
Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority
Fuquay-Varina Jr. Woman's Club
Raleigh Moose Lodge 1318
Bruce Kaplan and Friends
Apex Fashion Fillies 4-H Club
Joseph Thomas Abron Appraisal Service

WAYNE – 95
Goldsboro Moose Lodge 661

WILKES – 96
Brushy Mountain Ruritan Club

WILSON – 97
Saint-Gobain Glass Awareness
Committee

Our sincere congratulations and best wishes go out to NCDOT Statewide Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Anne Walker on her retirement July 1.

Retirement marks the beginning of a new era for Anne after providing 15 years of dedicated service.

During her time at the department, Anne administered the Adopt-A-Highway program within the Office of Beautification Programs. As the state AAH coordinator, her responsibilities included providing program information and reports, group agreement renewals, Litter Sweep details, pick up data reporting, program enhancements and training.

Regarding the two AAH program administrative systems, Anne provided oversight into the development of the Interactive Voice Response system. The IVR is currently used to receive pick up data reports from AAH groups and sends faxes

to NCDOT county maintenance offices regarding roadside bag collection.

In addition, Anne also led the team in the development and updates of the 3.0 AAH Web site for both internal and external use. This site gives prospective AAH groups the ability to enter their application for adopting a roadway and gives existing groups a way to enter cleanup report information. The 3.0 system also allows AAH coordinators to update group information files and run various reports quickly and easily.

In her retirement, Anne plans to spend more time with family and friends, as well as volunteer at local animal shelters.

There is no question that Anne's intuitive nature will be missed. We wish her the best in the years to come.

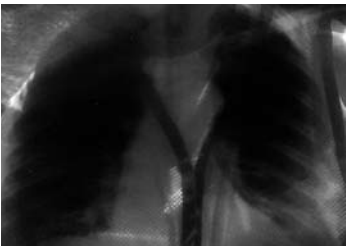
2007 Litter Report Highlights from www.ncdot.org/~beautification/events. The N.C. Department of Transportation maintains 79,000 miles of roadway and in 2007 spent \$16.7 million for roadside litter removal. More than 10 million pounds of litter were removed from North Carolina roadsides. Here is a sample of other information provided in the report:

- Adopt-A-Highway groups removed 3.7 million pounds of litter, of which 314,000 pounds were recycled.
- Combined, littering and unsecure load violation citations totaled 6,136.
- The top ten counties with the most littering and unsecured load **citations** were Wake (660), Mecklenburg (515), Guilford (265), New Hanover (178), Gaston (166), Craven (140), Cumberland (131), Forsyth (121), Buncombe (117) and Catawba (115).
- The top counties with the most littering and unsecured load **convictions** were Wake (353), Mecklenburg (275), Gaston (84), New Hanover (79), Onslow (77), Craven (74), Buncombe (72), Guilford (69), Rowan (62), Iredell (60), Forsyth (59), Rutherford (59), Catawba (56), Johnston (54) and Cumberland (52).

"Most Unusual Litter" Contest Winners

During Litter Sweep, volunteers submit entries for the most unusual item discovered during the cleanup. The contest is sponsored by the N.C. Beverage Association and offers three monetary prizes. First place receives \$250, while

second and third places receive \$100 and \$50 respectively. Winners of previous contests can be viewed at www.ncdot.org/~beautification under the Litter Sweep link. Here are the most current winners:



1st Prize Winner
Chest X-ray

In Loving Memory of Patrick W. Torbush
Bolivia, NC



2nd Prize Winner
Fire Hydrant

Cape Fear Cyclists
Wilmington, NC

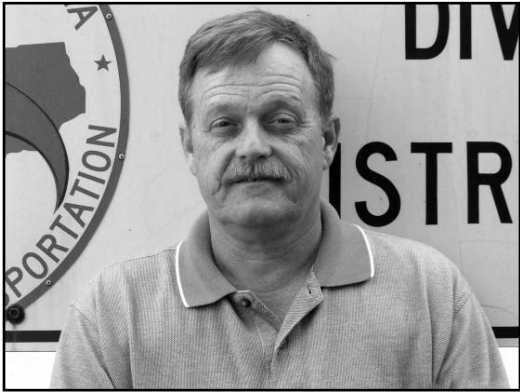


3rd Prize Winner
1,000 Dinars (A bill from the Central Bank of Iraq)
Keep Catawba County Beautiful
Hickory, NC

AAH Coordinator Profile

By George Kapetanakis (GK)

AAH Coordinator Profile
Curtis Riggans
Title: Transportation Technician IV
Division: 11
Counties: Alleghany, Surry and Yadkin
Location: Elkin
Years as AAH Coordinator: 7



Curtis Riggans

Here are a few of the questions and answers from our discussion:

George Kapetanakis: What are some of the challenges you face?

Curtis Riggans: One challenge is keeping the individual group database current. Many times the groups will change their contacts, but fail to let me know so I can update the information. This creates a void in properly educating the group's new contact person of the responsibilities involved in reporting pick up information.

GK: What are some of the more frequently asked questions you receive from new AAH groups or group contacts?
CR: Most of the questions deal with their responsibilities. What do I need to do? Many of the groups have a computer, but many do not, so I promote the use of the AAH Hotline (1-800-628-4394) and I encourage new contacts to use this number for reporting their cleanups.

GK: Do you find many groups applying online?
CR: There are a few, however,

most of the time I contact the group by phone regardless. This is usually to confirm the road site and to ensure they understand the amount of effort required to maintain a clean roadway.

GK: What do you do in your spare time?
CR: I enjoy riding the roadways on my Harley Ultra-Classi motorcycle. I also have an interest in deer hunting.

Curtis, from all of us at NCDOT and the Office of Beautification Programs, we want to congratulate you on your 21 years of dedicated service to the department, the AAH program and the AAH groups. Our thanks go to all volunteers who keep Alleghany, Surry and Yadkin counties free of litter.

Reporting AAH Cleanups

Many AAH groups tell us that reporting cleanups and requesting for NCDOT to pick up their orange bags is an easy process when calling the AAH Hotline at (800) 628-4394.

Cleanups can also be reported online. Just visit www.ncdot.org/~beautification/highway and click on the link under Administration.

Please note that to use either method, you will need to know your four-digit contract number. You will also need your two-digit county number when using the AAH Hotline.